

deceased had taken by the mouth his own medicine after having been bitten.

The snake was brought alive to me and it was a full-grown common krait—*Bungarus cæruleus*—poisonous—3 ft. 5½ ins. long. The punctures on the man were two and were on the dorsal aspect of the left middle finger on either side of the first inter-phalangeal joint about 1½ inches distant. As the mouth of the krait was not wide enough for the distance between the fangs on the two sides to be over an inch, it is presumed that the man put the bent joint of his left middle finger in the snake's mouth to keep it open and used his right hand to pull out or break the snake's teeth with tweezers.

Result:—Death.

BOMBAY.
April 27, 1932.

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XXX.—A FISH PEST OF FIELDS ALONG THE COROMANDEL COAST [*OPHICHTHYS BORO*, Hb.]¹.

(With a plate).

Many are aware of the injury occasionally caused to paddy fields by crabs in different tracts, especially in some of the delta areas of the Coromandel coast but it might be a surprise, to at least some, to be told that there is a fish which has been noted as injurious in some of these tracts. This creature (which is known as *Anaikuthupambu* in Tamil, and the damage it causes *Ramasuli* in Telugu) is an elongated flattish creature with the general appearance of a snake and believed to be a water snake. The animal is really a fish and belongs to the group of fishes called 'Eels'. This creature generally inhabits the estuaries and tidal streams along the coast and is often found to travel inland in the channels and streams during ebb tide. Though up to the present it has been noted as a pest only in the coast of South Arcot and in the Godaveri delta, the creature has a wide distribution and is one of the commonest species of eels found along our coasts and estuaries.

The nature of the damage done by this creature does not, as in the case of most other pests, consist in any direct injury by the creature feeding on the plants or causing them any mechanical injury, but it is an indirect harm caused by numbers of these eels burrowing into and making wide passages across the bunds, thus connecting the paddy fields containing fresh water on one side and the adjacent salt water channels or tidal streams on the other.

¹ Paper read at the Indian Science Congress, Bangalore, January 1932.



A Burrowing Eel (*Ophichthys boro*).

